

02/18/00  
JCS85 U.S. PTO

## BOX: PATENT APPLICATION

ASA-672

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Prior Application: M. Mori et al  
USSN 08/916,154  
Filed: September 2, 1997

Group Art Unit: 2764  
Examiner: N. Nguyen  
For: AUTOMATIC AUCTION METHOD

JCS85 U.S. PTO  
02/18/00  
09/506808

REQUEST FOR CONTINUATION APPLICATION  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b)

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Box: Patent Application  
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 18, 2000

Sir:

This is a request for filing a continuation application under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) of pending prior application Serial No. 08/916,154, filed on September 2, 1997, entitled AUTOMATIC AUCTION METHOD, by all of the inventors names in the prior application.

1. Enclosed is a copy of the prior application, including the Declaration as originally filed.

2. The Filing Fee is calculated below:

**CLAIMS AS FILED IN THE PRIOR APPLICATION  
LESS ANY CLAIMS CANCELED BY AMENDMENT BELOW  
PLUS ANY CLAIMS ADDED BY ACCOMPANYING PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Basic Fee							\$ 690.00	
Total Claims	1	-	20	=	0	x	18	= \$ 0.00
Independent Claims	1	-	3	=	0	x	78	= \$ 0.00
Total Filing Fee								\$ 690.00

3. A check including the amount of \$690.00 is enclosed to cover the Filing Fee.

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*Pic 25-02*

✓  
4. Cancel claims 2-15 before calculating the Filing Fee.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-1540. A duplicate copy of this Request is enclosed for this purpose.

6. Amend the specification by inserting, before the first line:

--This is a continuation application of U.S. Serial No. 08/916,154, filed September 2, 1997.--

7. New drawings are enclosed, seventeen (17) sheets, Figs. 1-20.

8. The power of attorney in the prior application is to:

Thomas E. Beall, Jr., Registration No. 22,410  
Jeffrey M. Ketchum, Registration No. 31,174  
Shrinath Malur, Registration No. 34,663  
John R. Mattingly, Registration No. 30,293  
Daniel J. Stanger, Registration No. 32,846  
Gene W. Stockman, Registration No. 21,021.

The power is combined with the Declaration and appears in the originally filed papers of the prior application.

Address all future correspondence to:

BEALL LAW OFFICES  
104 East Hume Avenue  
Alexandria, Virginia 22301  
(703) 684-1120.

9. The prior application is assigned to Hitachi, Ltd.

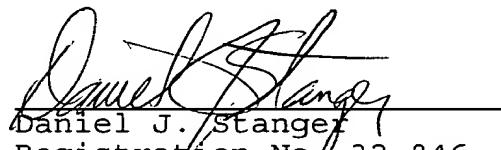
10. Priority of the following Japanese patent application(s) is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119:

No. 08-233918, filed September 4, 1996.

The certified priority document has been filed in the parent application.

The undersigned hereby declares and verifies that the enclosed application is a true copy of the latest signed prior application Serial No. 08/916,154, as originally filed on September 2, 1997, and no amendment referred to in the declaration filed to complete the prior application introduced new matter into the prior application.

The undersigned declares further that all statements made herein of his own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patent issuing thereon.



Daniel J. Stanger  
Registration No. 32,846  
Attorney of Record

BEALL LAW OFFICES  
104 East Hume Avenue  
Alexandria, Virginia 22301  
(703) 684-1120  
Date: February 18, 2000

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**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF PROPOSED DRAWING CORRECTIONS**

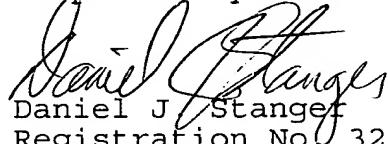
Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 18, 2000

Sir:

The applicants requests approval of the proposed drawing corrections shown in red ink on the attached copies of Figs. 3 and 8 to correct minor spelling errors.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Daniel J. Stanger  
Registration No. 32,846  
Attorney for Applicants

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(703) 684-1120  
Date: February 18, 2000